

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

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APPROVED BY NEA:JJSISCO

S/S - MR. GAMMON

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 205556

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF

SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS - CALL BY AUSTRALIAN
AMBASSADOR

1. AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR PLIMSOLL CALLED AT HIS REQUEST
OCT 16 ON ASST SECY SISCO TO KEEP IN TOUCH ON ME DEVELOP-
MENTS IN LIGHT OF AUSTRALIA'S PRESIDENCY OF UN SECURITY
COUNCIL. SISCO COMMENTED THAT USG HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES
TO BE ACTIVE WITH PARTIES TO ME DISPUTE, SOVIETS, AND
OTHERS WITH VIEW TO DEVELOPING CONSENSUS PERMITTING AN
END TO THE FIGHTING ON THE BASIS OF CONDITIONS THAT PRO-
VIDE SOME HOPE FOR PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT. RE-
CALLING AMB SCALI'S RECENT SPEECH IN UNSC, SISCO SAID WE
HAD THOUGHT AT THAT POINT THAT RETURN TO PREVIOUS POSITIONS
WOULD ENTAIL THE LEAST DAMAGE, BUT WE HAD NOT EXPRESSED
THIS AS IMMUTABLE POSITION. WE EXPRESSED IDEAS AND WE
ARE FLEXIBLE. SINCE THEN, USG HAD SOUGHT DIPLOMATIC
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CHANNELS TO GET AGREEMENT ON CEASEFIRE IN PLACE, ALSO
WITHOUT SUCCESS. WE REMAIN OPENMINDED REGARDING LINKAGE
OF CEASEFIRE TO A PROCESS AIMING AT POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.
WE DID NOT SEE, HOWEVER, THAT ARAB CALL FOR TOTAL ISRAELI

WITHDRAWAL TO PRE-JUNE 1967 BORDERS, IS ATTAINABLE FOR ISRAEL WOULD VIEW THIS AS TOTAL CAPITULATION. THIS WOULD BE OUR VIEW AS WELL.

2. SISCO CONTINUED THAT OUR PRESENT JUDGMENT IS THAT NO CONSENSUS EXISTS CURRENTLY IN SECURITY COUNCIL. FURTHERMORE, IT DIFFICULT TO SEE WHEN AND ON WHAT BASIS SUCH CONSENSUS COULD BE ACHIEVED IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE NEITHER SIDE WANTS TO STOP FIGHTING. USG WILL CONTINUE ITS DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS, HOWEVER. IT APPARENT THAT FURTHER EXTENSIVE FIGHTING LIKELY, AND NEITHER SIDE IS READY TO END THE BLOODSHED.

3. SISCO NOTED THAT AT SUCH TIME AS SECURITY COUNCIL MAY TAKE UP ME, AUSTRALIA WILL BE IN KEY POSITION AS PRESIDENT OF SC. AS YET, HOWEVER, USG HAS NO CRYSTALLIZED IDEAS ON HOW AND WHEN TO PROCEED. WE KEENLY AWARE OF DIFFICULTIES PRESENTED BY COMPOSITION OF SC. AUSTRALIA IS KEY. SISCO STRESSED ALSO AUSTRALIA COULD NOT ONLY BE HELPFUL AS AN ALLY AND FRIEND BUT ALSO SC PRESIDENCY GAVE IT PREROGATIVES WHICH WOULD PERMIT ACTION AS SC PRESIDENT. COMMENT: WE WANT TO KEEP AUSTRALIANS CLUED IN BECAUSE POTENTIALLY THEY ARE KEY IN SC. WE WILL SEND YOU ADDITIONAL MATERIALS. YOU SHOULD FILL APPROPRIATE FONOFFS REPS. ALSO DRAW ON CIRCULAR YOU HAVE RECEIVED EXPLAINING OUR RESUPPLY EFFORT. AMB PLIMSOLL STATED AUSTRALIA WOULD LIKE TO BE HELPFUL. IT WOULD BE ESPECIALLY USEFUL IF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT FEELS IT IS BEING BROUGHT IN ON CURRENT ME DEVELOPMENTS AND IS PART OF CONSULTING PROCESS.

4. COMMENTING IN GENERAL TERMS, SISCO SAID USG AGREES WITH AUSTRALIA THAT CEASEFIRE COULD POSSIBLY BE LINKED TO ONGOING PEACE EFFORTS. PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO BRINGING ABOUT AN END TO VIOLENCE. OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS ALSO AGREE WE SHOULD HOLD ON TO SC RES 242, SISCO ADDED. USG NOT SEEKING A TRUCE, BUT REAL PROGRESS TOWARD SETTLE-

.3,5. SISCO NOTED THAT CURRENT ME SITUATION INVOLVES CONFIDENTIAL

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PARALLEL INTERESTS OF US AND OF ITS FRIENDS AND ALLIES.

5. TOUCHING ON US RESUPPLY OF ISRAEL, SISCO STATED THAT USG DID NOT WANT SITUATION TO LEAD TO REWARDING SOVIET ADVENTURISM BECAUSE OF THEIR RESUPPLY OF ARABS. SISCO NOTED NO US PLANES HAD BEEN PUT INTO THE AIR UNTIL WE HAD COUNTED 200 SOVIET RESUPPLY FLIGHTS. AS OF MORNING OCT 16, THERE HAD BEEN TOTAL OF MORE THAN 300 SUCH FLIGHTS. ALSO WE DO NOT FEEL WE HAVE HAD AS MUCH DIPLOMATIC CO-OPERATION ON PART OF SOVIETS AS WOULD HAVE BEEN DESIRABLE, ALTHOUGH BOTH US AND USSR ADHERING TO SUMMIT UNDERSTANDINGS AGAINST DIRECT INTERVENTION.

6. SUMMING UP, SISCO STRESSED WE DO NOT CONSIDER DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS AT AN END, AND WE STILL IN CONTACT WITH USSR AND OTHERS. WE HAVE CONTINUED TO RESERVE JUDGMENT AS TO OVER-ALL ROLE OF USSR, SINCE ALL RETURNS NOT IN. AMB PLIMSOLL COMMENTED THAT END TO FIGHTING IS NEEDED BEFORE ONE SIDE STARTS CLEARLY TO WIN. SISCO REITERATED THERE NO SIGN EITHER SIDE WANTS TO STOP FIGHTING AT THE MOMENT. KISSINGER

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